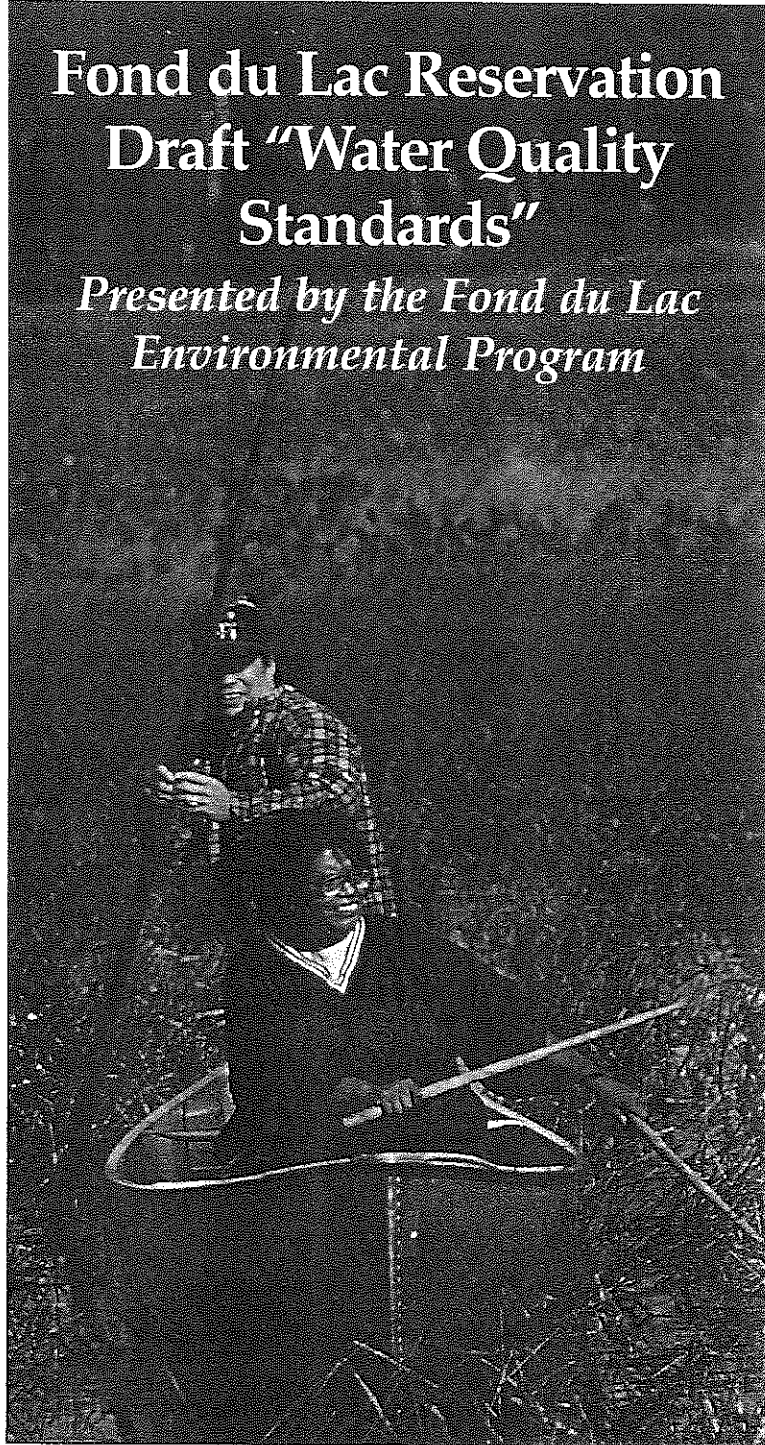


# Fond du Lac Reservation Draft "Water Quality Standards"

*Presented by the Fond du Lac  
Environmental Program*



## What are "Water Quality Standards?"

Water quality standards are the rules that serve to protect the public health and welfare, enhance the quality of water, and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. This will provide for the protection and reproduction of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and for recreation in and on the water.

In 1987 Congress amended the Clean Water Act and added Section 518, which authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency to treat an Indian Tribe "as a State" for the purposes of the Act if the Tribe meets specific, defined criteria. Fond du Lac has met the criteria for "Treatment as a State" for developing water quality standards that are specific to all waters on the Reservation.

It is these standards for which we are seeking public comment. The public participation process is the most important part of establishing water quality standards.

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Center panel photo:  
Nancy Costa, Fond du Lac Reservation  
Environmental Scientist/Water Specialist tests  
the flow rate of the river with a Current Flow Meter

## What is the purpose of the "Water Quality Standards?"

In establishing water quality standards, Tribes, like States, define water quality goals by designating uses for their water bodies and adopting water quality criteria to protect the designated uses.

In particular, State and Tribal water quality standards are required to take into consideration the use and value of a water body for public water supply, for the propagation of fish, shell-



fish, and wildlife, and for recreational, agricultural, industrial and navigational purposes.

By establishing the goals for a water body, water quality standards provide the regulatory and legal basis for point source and nonpoint source water - quality based controls beyond those required by the technological controls of the Clean Water Act.

## **How will these Standards benefit the Reservation?**

As stated before, the water quality standards provide the regulatory and legal bases for point source and non point source water quality based controls.

Fond du Lac will have the authority to protect all waters within the boundaries of the Reservation. By designating special uses for each individual water body, we provide a level of protection that is unique to the Fond du Lac Band. We can also create special designations, as we have done for wild rice and cultural water bodies, that will incorporate an even higher level of protection than is awarded through the Clean Water Act designations.

Water quality "designated uses" are the key to making these standards unique to Fond du Lac.

Fond du Lac Environmental Program

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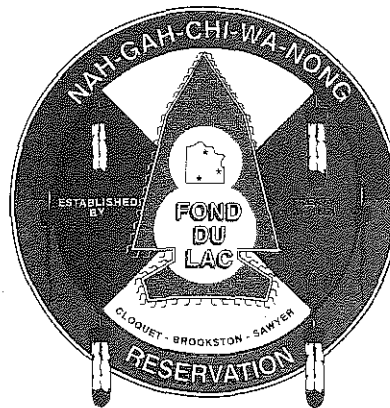
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*Photos are property of the  
Fond du Lac Reservation Public Relations Office*

**The Fond du Lac Reservation  
Business Committee and  
the Fond du Lac  
Environmental Program  
would appreciate your comments:**

**On the Draft Publication of the  
Fond du Lac Reservation  
Water Quality Standards  
at a public meeting to be held**

**July 23rd, 1998**

**from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm**

*(cookies and coffee will be served)*

**and from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm**

*(meal will be served)*

**Fond du Lac Tribal Center  
1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720**



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